



MERRIMACK
VALLEY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, INC.



July 17, 2006

Heritage Place
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Alicia Matthews
Director, Cable Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Irving E. Rogers III
Council Co-Chair

Kendall M. Wallace
Council Co-Chair

Robert J. Halpin
President & CEO

David A. Tibbetts
General Counsel

Dear Director Matthews:

I am writing on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council in support of Verizon's petition to the Department of Telecommunications to establish a shorter and more predictable timeline for the cable franchise process in Massachusetts.


The Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit tax exempt charitable organization, created in August 1999 to promote the interests of the entire Merrimack Valley region, from Greater Lowell to the sea. The Council's mission is to promote the economic interests of the entire Merrimack Valley.

We believe in competition. Our members represent numerous types of businesses that compete vigorously in their respective markets. All want more choices in technology to support their own operations. The investment that Verizon is making in Massachusetts will have a significant impact on our members' ability to leverage the power of technology to compete globally. Verizon's new video service, as well as its voice and internet services, will be offered over the most advanced fiber-optic network in the country.

As a result of this investment and the delivery of fiber optic technology right to the door, we believe small businesses in particular will have more choice, more growth, opportunity, and more commercial opportunity.

Please record us in favor of the streamlined franchising process in CTV-06-1.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Halpin
President

cc: Janice Tartaka, Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
Chairwoman Judith Judson
Commissioner James Connelly
Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden

